

Leicester, Tu. a.m. March 1. 1864.

Dear friend Webb,

Yesterday came to hand Alfred's note, with certain business items about the Standard, &c., & enclosing yours, which, tho' short & hurried (from interruptions) was nevertheless so cordial, so frank, so genuine in its human feelings & sympathies, that, miserably as I was feeling, (for I have been quite poor, for several days past, - & indeed quite off the books ever since early in Jan.), it quite warmed me up, and stir me now to a few words of reply, in thanks for it; - the more as I also want to tell you about George Thompson's Reception in Boston. - But first, a word or two on business for Alfred, - whom we are all indebted to, for the interest he takes in our affairs, & the exact manner in which he looks after them. I am sorry, with him, at the number of discrepancies of the "Standard" - far less on acc't. of the paper itself, but because it betokens a failing interest in the cause on the part of the British people, & seems to give a degree of support to the charge that much of the professed "anti-slavery" of England was ^{largely} ~~was~~ the result of an "anti-American" feeling, which was glad to find so conspicuous a blot & stain on our National Character, as Slavery, & was very willing to spread thro' England the knowledge of the atrocities perpetrated by it, & with the consent of the Nation. - That such men ^{& women} as Dr. Thoresby, Dr. Montgomery, R. Gaskell, Jos. Haughton, Mrs. J. Stephens, &c. &c. should allow their moral support & countenance to the American Anti-Slavery Society to cease & be withdrawn, at this critical hour, is ^{carries} passing strange, & ~~carries~~ many sad thoughts through my mind. When our enemies assail us, we can grow the stronger for it; nor so, when old & trusted friends grow cold & desert us.

On the other hand, I am glad & rejoice, with you, at the "20 good "Standard" rulers & others" which still remain, in the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Ireland.

- A. also gives me a statement of funds in his hands, for the "Standard", for the "Bazaar fund", & for the "Liberator". You will doubtless have received, by this time, my accounts for the past year, which I mailed to you Feb. 17th. -

Tell Alfred, please, that the Educational Commission for Freedmen, which has its headquarters at Boston, is one of the most efficient & most liberally-conducted, as it is the earliest, of the several Societies existing (East, Centre, & West) for the benefit of the freed people. Mr. William Endicott Jr., one of the partners of the late Chas. F. Hovey, & still in the same business establishment, is the Treasurer of that Commission, of which I have been a member from the beginning; - (Mrs. Chapman & her family also are active in its support.) any contributions for it may be sent to Mr. Endicott, care C. F. Hovey & Co., Boston, &c.; or, if Alfred will, he can send it to me, & I will pay the amt. to W. E. -

- One word more for Alfred; - he will please not call me S. J. May; the name is as good as mine, certainly, but it is not mine; it belongs to a much better man, none of whose merits or honours or characteristics have I a right to wear. I know it is very hard to keep these names - distinctions in mind, and it was a pity our fathers should give us names so near alike; one of the same name, in a generation, should suffice.

- What you said of Nagasaki, & of the spirit which led to that wholesale terrible destruction, is what impressed me so deeply; with your most generous retraction of some censure you had formerly felt obliged to pass on Wendell Phillips. It takes a man, to think, to feel, to judge, & to speak, as you do in that brief note. For God's sake, speak out your censure of England, & of every other nation, which does

such high-handed wickedness. Spare them not. These faithful rebukes and testimonies are needed to save the nations and the world.

You would rejoice to hear George Thompson, as he speaks to every audience here, & always in private. He never loses an opportunity to cultivate, so far as he possibly can, a good understanding & feeling between England & America. And he takes the wise, & the only course to do it. He shows to us how essentially friendly to our Country & everything good in it, is the great mass of the working, labouring, mechanic people of England, including ~~them~~ with them a very large body of the middling class, & not a few of the best-educated minds. In his speech at his Boston reception - the best I have heard from him since he arrived with us - he brought against the London Times, the double charge, of grossly misrepresenting the American people (& their present great struggle with the Rebellion) to the British nation, and of quite as grossly & wickedly misrepresenting the real sentiments & feelings of the British people to us. He made a very strong point of it. Should you fully agree with him? This week's Liberator is to have a full Report of that ^{the} Reception Meeting.

I send you with this a copy of the Invitation sent freely to prominent persons in the City & neighbourhood, & to Members of the State Legislature now in session in Boston, - & which was very largely responded to by a fair representation of Boston's best people. The known Antislavery men from the Eastern half of the State, & some from other States, were present in considerable numbers. The Hall was as full as it could hold. Gov. Andrew was admirable in every respect. His welcome to Mr. T. was not only eloquent, but hearty, cordial, & unqualified. When G. T. came forward, 3 Cheers for him were called, & given most emphatically - then 3 more - & then 3 more; & they were given in the very heartiest way, from all portions of the Hall, - and not a murmur of dissent followed, nor was there the slightest token or sound, throughout the evening, of an unkindly feeling! Is not that a change? Must it not have been deeply gratifying to Thompson, thank you? - remembering, as he must, the reception

which Boston had given him twice before. - Garrison
 is delighted, - we can quite say, "his soul is satisfied."
 - So far as this matter goes. After G. T., followed a Mr.
 Bryant, (a total stranger to us,) - until recently a citizen of
 New Hampshire; his speech, so far as germane to the occasion, was
 good enough; but much of it was of a stump political kind,
 all that was so much too much. The audience manifested some
 impatience, but he went along. When done, loud calls for Phillips
 were given, - who spoke; then for Garrison, who was rec'd. with
 3 cheers (very cordial ones), & spoke; then the Govt. called for
 Prof. Wm. B. Rogers, a gentleman of the finest scientific cultiva-
 & of high social position, & he spoke, very warmly in acknowledgment
 of G. T.'s services, &c. - & then the audience called for Judge Rufus
 after him, the Govt. spoke once again, & in closing called for 3
 cheers for Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and bid off himself in them.
 & they were handsomely given; then 3 cheers for President Lincoln
 were called, & rousingly given, & the meeting was dissolved. It was
 a perfectly successful and satisfactory one.

On Thursday evening he had a 'Reception' at Portland
 the principal City of the State of Maine - which also, I learn, was
 an excellent one, & he said he spoke with more ease & freedom there
 than he had at any other places here. - Last night the City of New
 York was to have a meeting for him in the vast Hall of the Cooper
 Institute, & it was said that Maj. Genl. Fremont would preside.

Before I close this, I shall doubtless hear from that meeting; I feel
 somewhat anxious in regard to it. From there he was going, by inv.
 Philadelphia and Washington. [Mar. 2^d] The meeting was all we could wish.
 Genl. Fremont presided, & send you a New York
 Times, which recently vilified G. T. shamefully.

I occasionally send you an "Evening Post" - do you get them
 The "Spectator" comes often; and I give some to Garrison, some I send to
 the "Standard", & some to friends in our Southern armies. - My last letter
 (of Feb. 17.) was written amidst difficulties, & was a poor one; but I was
 desirous to send forward the account, - in a recent letter you gave us
 a very pleasant account of a Children's gathering at your house; we should
 have delighted to have been "bidden" there, & to have been with you. - Last week, Feb.
 22^d (Washington's Birth day, which is now a National Holiday) my daughter Besie held
 my house, a Children's Fair, for the benefit of the Freed Slaves. It was her own tho'
 & she expected & hoped to get "five or eight dollars" from her little preparation.